

1 a second flow control baffle positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly
from the interior surface of said top wall rearwardly of said cutting blades; and
said second flow control baffle including a plurality of semi-circular baffle portions, each
of said baffle portions being positioned adjacent the blade tip path of one of said
cutting blades;
5 said first and second flow control baffles defining a plurality of open throat portions
which are positioned between adjacent cutting blades.

REMARKS

10 Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated
by Kidd U.S. Patent No. 4,055,036. Although claims 11 and 12, as originally submitted,
are believed to distinguish Kidd, claim 11 has been extensively modified to more clearly
define applicants' invention. Claim 11 now describes that the first and second cutting
blades have blade tips and further describes that the blade tip path of each of the
cutting blades defines a circle. Claim 11 further describes that the first elongated and
substantially straight baffle portion is angularly disposed with respect to the circle
defined by the blade tip path of the second cutting blade in a chord-like fashion so that
the cuttings from the first cutting blade will be deflected inwardly within the circle
defined by the blade tip path of the second cutting blade.
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Kidd does not have any structure even remotely similar to that described in claim
11. The wall portion 101 is not angularly disposed with respect to the circle defined by
the second cutting blade in Kidd in a chord-like fashion, but is disposed in a manner
which would best be described as being tangentially disposed rather than in a chord-
like fashion.
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The relatively straight baffle portion in Kidd does not direct the cuttings into the
path of the adjacent cutting blade, since the section 103 is disposed tangentially to the

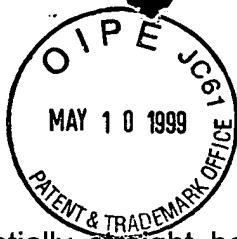
1 circular blade tip path of blade 21. The arrangement of applicants' first elongated and
1 substantially straight baffle portion ensures that the grass clippings will be directed into
the blade tip path of the rotating blade to ensure efficient chopping or mulching of the
grass clippings.

5 Claim 12 is dependent on claim 11 and further defines the first and second flow
control baffles. It is believed that claims 11 and 12 are not anticipated by Kidd and that
claims 11 and 12 should be allowed.

10 Claims 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable
over Kidd in view of Loehr. Claims 13-15 are believed to be allowable over Kidd and
Loehr inasmuch as claims 13-15 ultimately depend from claim 11 which describes the
relationship of the first elongated and substantially straight baffle portion with respect to
the circle defined by the blade tip path of the second cutting blade, as set forth
hereinabove and which will not be repeated for purposes of conciseness.

15 Claim 16, although believed to have clearly been allowable over the prior art, has
been amended in a manner almost identical to claim 11 except that the relationship of
the second elongated and substantially straight baffle portion has also been described
as being disposed in a chord-like fashion with respect to the circle defined by the blade
tip path of the third cutting blade so that the cuttings from the second blade will be
deflected inwardly within the circle defined by the blade tip path of the third cutting
blade. Neither Kidd nor Loehr discloses the angular relationship of the relatively
20 straight baffle portions and the circles defined by the adjacent blade tip paths. The
importance of such an arrangement is described in the specification and is set forth
hereinabove and is incorporated herein by reference.

25 Claim 16 and claims 17-20, which ultimately depend therefrom, are believed to
be allowable inasmuch as there is not even a remote suggestion that the relatively or



1 substantially straight baffle portions could be disposed with respect to the adjacent
blade tip path as set forth hereinabove. The allowance of claims 16-20 is respectfully
solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

15 I hereby certify that the original of this AMENDMENT for GARRY W. BUSBOOM,
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